

**Maine Revised Statutes**  
**Title 17: CRIMES**  
**Chapter 62: Games of chance**

**§1835. CONDUCT GAMES OF CHANCE**

**1. Wagers or entry fees; exceptions.** The following limits apply to games of chance.

A. The maximum bet for a licensed game of chance including card games in which bets are placed per hand or per deal is \$1. [ 2009, c. 487, Pt. A, §2 (NEW) . ]

B. Licensed card games that award part or all of the entry fees paid to participate in the game as prize money and in which no money or thing of value is wagered except for the entry fee are limited to a \$10 daily entry fee and no more than 60 players at any one time at any one location. [ 2013, c. 218, §2 (AMD) . ]

C. If the licensee operates games of chance for less than 3 total days in a calendar year and contributes 100% of the gross revenue from those games of chance to charity, the amount wagered must be limited to:

- (1) A \$1 daily entry fee;
- (2) Fifty cents per game; or
- (3) Twenty-five cents per card received.

Prior to play of the game, the licensee shall determine which of the limits in subparagraphs (1), (2) and (3) is to be used and shall post the limit. [ 2009, c. 487, Pt. A, §2 (NEW) . ]

[ 2013, c. 218, §2 (AMD) . ]

**2. Games conducted by members and bartenders of licensee only.** A game of chance licensed pursuant to this chapter must be operated and conducted for the exclusive benefit of the licensee and must be operated and conducted only by duly authorized members of the licensee or by persons employed by the licensee as bartenders, except that nonmembers employed by the licensee as bartenders may not operate or conduct any game of chance permitted under subsection 5, paragraph B. The requirements of this subsection do not apply to any agricultural society licensed to operate a game of chance.

[ 2009, c. 487, Pt. A, §2 (NEW) . ]

**3. Games conducted at agricultural fair by members of the agricultural society or a bona fide nonprofit.** Games of chance operated and conducted solely by members of an agricultural society or games of chance operated and conducted by members of bona fide nonprofit organizations on the grounds of the agricultural society and during the annual fair of the agricultural society may use cash, tickets, tokens or other devices approved by the Chief of the State Police by rule.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, the tickets, tokens or other devices approved by the Chief of the State Police must be unique to the agricultural society and may be in denominations of 25¢, 50¢ or \$1. The tickets, tokens or devices approved by the Chief of the State Police may be sold and redeemed only by a person who has been a member or active volunteer of the agricultural society for at least 2 fair seasons. The agricultural society has the burden of proof for demonstrating the qualification of members or active volunteers.

An agricultural society that uses tokens shall provide records and reports as required by section 1839.

[ 2009, c. 487, Pt. A, §2 (NEW) . ]

**4. Persons under 18 years of age; exception.** Except as provided in this subsection, a licensee, game owner or operator may not permit a person under 18 years of age to take part in a game of chance, and a person under 18 years of age may not sell chances, except in relation to charitable, religious or recognized youth associations. Notwithstanding any rule to the contrary, upon receiving an application on a form provided by the Chief of the State Police and a determination by the chief that a game of chance licensed to be conducted at a festival-style event is designed to attract players under 18 years of age and awards a nonmonetary prize valued at less than \$10 for every chance played, the chief may permit:

A. Persons under 18 years of age to conduct or operate the game of chance; and [ 2009 , c. 487 , Pt. A, §2 (NEW) .]

B. Persons under 18 years of age to play the game of chance without being accompanied by an adult. [ 2009 , c. 487 , Pt. A, §2 (NEW) .]

Nothing in this subsection permits games of chance to be operated without a license.

[ 2009 , c. 487 , Pt. A, §2 (NEW) .]

**5. Location.** A license issued pursuant to this section must specify the location where the organization may operate the licensed game of chance. A licensee may not operate games of chance in more than one location at the same time.

A. An agricultural society or a bona fide nonprofit organization may operate a game of chance on the grounds of an agricultural society and during the annual fair of the agricultural society. [ 2009 , c. 487 , Pt. A, §2 (NEW) .]

B. No more than one licensee may operate a game of chance at a time on the same premises. In any room where a licensed game of chance is being conducted, there must be at least one member of the licensee present in that room for every 2 nonmembers who are present. That member must have been a member of the licensee for at least one year. A member of the licensee, either directly or through another member or guest, may not stake or risk something of value in the licensee's game of chance unless the member has been a member of the licensee for at least 14 days not including the day of admission into membership. [ 2009 , c. 487 , Pt. A, §2 (NEW) .]

A bona fide nonprofit organization may operate a licensed game of chance to which the general public has access once every 3 months for a period not to exceed 3 consecutive days. The licensed game of chance may be operated at any location described in the license and may be conducted only by members of the licensee. This subsection does not apply to raffles conducted in accordance with section 1837.

[ 2009 , c. 487 , Pt. A, §2 (NEW) .]

**6. Door prizes.** Distribution of tickets to an event upon which appear details concerning any prize to be given away as a result of a drawing is a game of chance within the meaning of this chapter; a distribution of tickets containing only the words "Door Prize," without further description, is excluded from the provisions of this chapter, as long as no promotional materials or presentations, written or oral, describe the door prize.

[ 2009 , c. 487 , Pt. A, §2 (NEW) .]

**7. "Donation" not to provide an exclusion.** The word "donation" printed on a ticket does not exclude the sponsoring organization from complying with this chapter.

[ 2009 , c. 487 , Pt. A, §2 (NEW) .]

**8. Wager limit exception.** Notwithstanding subsection 1, an organization that is licensed to conduct games of chance in accordance with this chapter is permitted to accept wagers up to \$50 per hand for a poker run. The organization must inform the Chief of the State Police 30 days in advance of the date when the organization intends to conduct a poker run with an increased wager limit. An organization is limited to 2

poker run events per calendar year in which wagers up to \$50 per hand are permitted. For the purposes of this subsection, "poker run" means a game of chance using playing cards that requires a player to travel from one geographic location to another in order to play the game.

[ 2013, c. 149, §1 (NEW) .]

#### SECTION HISTORY

2009, c. 487, Pt. A, §2 (NEW). 2009, c. 652, Pt. C, §3 (AMD). 2009, c. 652, Pt. C, §4 (AFF). 2013, c. 149, §1 (AMD). 2013, c. 218, §2 (AMD).

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